

## Old Town Neighborhood Watch

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Oct/Nov/Dec 2011



Old Town Neighborhood Watch

# The Old Town Voice

## OTNW Meetings

Currently meetings are being held in Spanish only. We meet the last Wed. of ever month from 7-8 PM at:

Allentown Promise  
Neighborhood Office  
347 N. 8th Street  
Allentown, PA 18102

10/26/2011 @7 PM  
11/30/2011 @7PM  
No Meeting in Dec!

Happy Holidays!!



### About OTNW:

We are the crime watch group for the Old Allentown Historic District, the area from Hall Street to 12th, Liberty to Linden Streets.

We speak English at our meetings, but want all of our diverse neighbors to attend. We will help you get heard!

Printed courtesy of the City of Allentown on recycled paper.

## *Meeting in Espanol...?* by Anne Crothers

Our August meeting was supposed to be a little different. It was supposed to be held in Spanish. At the July meeting it became clear that the energy was there for a meeting in Spanish, and that the usual meeting had just run out of gas. Numbers had dwindled and there were divides and moves that left people in it's wake each time. The handful of people who remained were burned out and badly needed an injection of energy.

Enter the Spanish-speaking community who had been trying to form a meeting for some time. People had approached the

folks at Allentown Promise Neighborhood, others had approached my neighbor Dennis Mendez. We toyed with holding both meetings for a while, but it just became clear that the energy was only there for the Spanish-speaking meeting.

We decided to go for it,

and began spreading the word. Unfortunately, Dennis had a death in his family and it was cancelled at the last minute.

We are on track at last for the October meeting at 7 PM, Wednesday, October 26th. Pass the palabra (word)!



## *Happy Holidays* By Anne Crothers

This is the holiday edition, taking us from Halloween through Christmas. We wish you a safe and special series of holidays.

Be safe with holiday decorations and cooking. Think of your neighbors when entertaining and jamming to Christmas songs.

Remember those people that keep the city running, newspaper delivery folk and mail carriers. Reach out to elderly neighbors or anyone alone. If you have an extra seat at the thanksgiving table, consider filling it with a neighbor. They might be the best present of all.

Don't drink and drive when you make merry. Your safety and the safety of others on the roads and sidewalks is more important than that last glass.

Remember those less fortunate than you and give when you can. May the spirit of Christmas come upon you!

## Allentown Turns 250! *From mcall.com*



*We're getting old!*

Allentown will be celebrating its 250th anniversary in 2012 and is asking for volunteers to help mark the milestone. Lots of volunteers.

To that end, organizers of the celebration scheduled four public meetings to acquaint residents with ways they can get involved in the many events and activities planned. But if you missed them, you can still find a way to get involved.

The 250th celebration will begin New Year's Eve with a ball drop at Ninth and Hamilton streets, according to Tara Craig, special events manager for Allentown.

For more information, contact Craig at 610-437-7530, 610-437-7530 or the 250th Anniversary Volunteer Committee chairwomen: Winnie Malinsky at [Wini-fred.malinsky@highmark.com](mailto:Wini-fred.malinsky@highmark.com) or Sonya Siegfried at

[jsbinc1895@aol.com](mailto:jsbinc1895@aol.com)

You can also go to the website: <http://www.allentownpa.gov/250>.

If you will be in town, this will be a year to remember! Volunteer or just plan to attend with your family. If you have any ideas of how OTNW can help, let the rest of us know, we live in slighter younger, but also historic place!

## McKinley Playground Problems *By Anne Crothers*

**"...(I)f you want to be listened to, you should put in time listening."  
Marge Piercy**

The playground at McKinley Elementary School has been neutral territory for years and years. A safe place for kids to play, hoodlums mainly stayed away. There was that one time when two drug dealers parked themselves there,

but one phone call drove them away.

This summer, things changed, and not in a good way. There were very creepy incidents, all which happened in full view of children who were playing in the play ground:

- A woman was shooting up heroin on a bench
- A man was urinating in the mulch under the jungle gym
- A young man exposed himself

It wasn't good!

## Trick or Treat Safety *from The 8th Ward Patroller*



*Be safe out there!*

**Have each child carry or wear something lit**, such as a flashlight, glow bracelet or necklace, or flashing attire for visibility. Light-up shoes are also practical, and noticeable on a dark Halloween night.

☐ **Adults should plan out a route in advance.** Trick or treat in familiar neighbor-

hoods or areas.

☐ **Require well-fitting shoes**, preferably sneakers.

☐ **Avoid costumes that drag on the ground.** While cute initially, costumes that drag can trip up little feet.

☐ **Pick costumes that are bathroom-friendly as well.**

On this same subject, parents should pre-plan a bathroom stop along the way .

☐ **Be sure a child's mask allows full visibility and breathing.**

☐ **Trick or treaters should walk**, not run, and should never cut across lawns.

## The Great Allentown Comic Con

WELCOME TO THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S LARGEST COMIC & POP CULTURE CONVENTION!

**Date:** Saturday, November 19th 2011 - Sunday, November 20th 2011

**Address:** Merchant Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown

**Hours:** Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm

**Admission Cost:** One-Day Pass \$8 per adult,

Two Day Pass \$10 per adult

- FREE for children 12 years-old

\$1 per pass will be donated to a local charity (Charity to be announced).

As always, we are working hard to bring you an awesome show with talented artists, guests, dealers, family fun events, and great prizes!

The Great Allentown Comic Con! welcomes artist

and creator Neil Vokes, writer and creator Bob Greenberger, and Brimstone, one of America's top professional wrestler, actor, author, philanthropist and comic book / animated hero!

We remain committed to a family-friendly event filled with comic books, toys, cards and collectible memorabilia, and more! ***Come get ur geek on*** at the Lehigh Valley's largest pop-culture convention!



*It's that time again!*

## Waterfront Visioning *From Michael Moore*

The "Lehigh River Waterfront Master Plan," is intended to guide future enhancement of the Lehigh's public areas and its neighborhood edges while attracting new businesses and investment to designated riverfront zones.

Through this public input process, a creative and flexi-

ble plan will emerge that will address a mixture of new uses, including transit and transportation, the ability for people to get around and access the river, parking and open areas, while building on the unique character and heritage of the working waterfront and its adjacent neighborhoods.

As the City of Allentown begins the planning process for evaluating how to best enhance, revitalize and redevelop the Lehigh River Waterfront, we would like to hear from you to better inform the visioning process.

*It's time to take back a forgotten part of the city and make it anew!*

**"It is the friends you can call up at 4 AM that matter."**

**Marlene Dietrich**

## Day of the Dead! *By Anne Crothers*

Day of the Dead is happening again on 7th Street, Saturday, October 29 from 5 to 9 PM in the 500 block of N. 7th Street between Liberty and Allen Streets.

Join us for our spooky haunted house, our sacred

cemetery, our out-of-this-world vendors including palm and card readers, witches, botanicas and more. Our entertainment will wake the dead!

This event is a fundraiser for 7th Street Development

and is a fun-filled Mexican holiday with international and PA features. All ages are welcome and will find cool stuff to see, do, eat and buy.

The night ends with our amazing fire performers! Don't miss it—be there!



*Dia de los Muertos!*

**Emergencies Call 911**

Abandoned Vehicles	610-437-7751
Animal Control	610-437-7535
Building Inspections	610-437-7592
Code Enforcement	610-437-7661
Child Abuse	610-437-7798
City Council	610-437-7556
Disruptive Tenant	610-437-7616
Fire Code Violations	610-437-7758
Garbage Complaints	610-437-8729
Graffiti	610-437-8729
Historic Architectural Review Board	610-437-7613
Housing Inspections	610-437-7697
Juvenile Bureau	610-437-7741
Liquor Control Enforcement	717-783-8250
Mayor Ed Pawlowski	610-437-7546
Police Non-emergency	610-437-7751

Neighbor Disputes	610-437-7773
Noise Complaints	610-437-7679
OTNW	610-432-9537
Parking Authority	610-437-3366
<b>Police Non-emergency</b>	<b>610-437-7751</b>
Police desk	610-437-7753
Police Quality of Life patrol	610-437-7611
Recycling	610-437-8729
Snow Removal (Sidewalks)	610-437-7596
Street Cleaning	610-437-7636
SWEEP Program	610-437-8729
Traffic Signs & Signals	610-437-7735
Vacant Property Issues	610-437-7604
Vice/Narcotics	610-437-7726
Weeds/Grass Overgrowth	610-437-7604
Zoning	610-437-7630

## *ASD's "Start Your Day Right" Program* From ASD



A good breakfast and physical activity are two ways to combat obesity.

As part of ASD's College and Career Access Network, "Start Your Day Right" will run in each of the 15 elementary schools from 7:30-8:40 a.m., Monday-Friday, September-June. The program consists of three rotations every morning:

- Breakfast/Conversation with the Community
- Academic Support & Enrichment
- Fitness Activities

The goals of "Start Your Day Right" are to:

- Assist students in reaching academic proficiency through increased learning supports
- Improve students' health and related performance with daily nutritious breakfasts and fitness activities
- Increase the connection between the community and

ASD students with greater involvement of community members serving as volunteers

### **PROGRAM BENEFITS**

With nearly 40 percent of ASD children obese or overweight, breakfast and physical activity in the before-school program at ASD is another way to combat this problem and encourage a balanced approach to nutrition.